

# the chronicle

**Chance to ramble through history in restored parkland**

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**Fighting back with golden nectar from an old brewhouse**

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**Malcolm's glass art proves big hit after TV star drops in**

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## Tragedy of ex-beauty queen at age of 35



Helen Baker in 1995 when she was 20

TRIBUTES were this week paid to former Black Country beauty queen and mother-of-one Helen Baker who was found dead at her home.

The family of Miss Baker, who was crowned Miss Stourbridge Crystal in 1995, have described her as fun-loving and kind. The former Crestwood School pupil was found dead at her home in Ragees Road, Kingswinford, on December 18.

She was aged 35 and leaves a 10-year-old daughter, Saskia.

Miss Baker was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy – or nerve damage – in August 2009, which left her partially disabled.

Her family say it was a great cause of distress to a young woman who had always been very active, loved dancing and had been a member of a leisure centre.

The cause of her death is not yet known.

### Stunning

Miss Baker's mother Margaret, from Chelford Road, Kingswinford, said her daughter was 20 years old when she won the title of Miss Stourbridge Crystal.

"She did various charity events as a result, which she loved. She was a girl who loved the limelight."

Mrs Baker added: "She was a very, very popular person amongst her friends. She was a very emotional, caring person."

"When Helen walked into a room, heads turned."

Miss Baker's friend Lisa Redfern said: "On a night out Helen would look stunning."

Mrs Baker said Helen became friendly with members of Take That in her early twenties.

"She briefly went out with a friend of Robbie Williams. Robbie used to call our house," she said.

"She first met them at a club in Stoke and even went into Gary Barlow's house in London on one occasion."

Her mother added: "Helen will be sadly missed by all family and friends, but most of all by Saskia, who will read out a poem she has written, at the funeral."

## Flash dance is surprise hit at Merry Hill



Shoppers take part in the Ceroc dancing display at the Merry Hill Centre

SHOPPERS were brought to a standstill as a dance 'flash mob' descended on Dudley's Merry Hill Centre.

The routine saw what appeared to be members of the public suddenly start showcasing their dance moves as Queen's Don't Stop Me Now was played into the centre's amphitheatre outside Marks & Spencer.

Around 60 people took part in the event which had been set up to promote the launch of new Ceroc dance classes at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on January 24.

Dancer Sarah Drzazgowski from Worcester-shire who has been learning Ceroc, which is a mix of salsa and other styles of dance, for 10 years said: "There was a guy behind me who when we finished turned around and said 'what just happened?'"

Onlooker, 60-year-old Val Creasey from Market Drayton, said: "I thought they were fantastic, people were clapping, and it was a really lovely atmosphere."

Debbie Attwood, who runs CerocGroove which holds classes across the Midlands and Worcester-shire, said: "Everyone was really excited and I think it generated a great buzz. There were around 60 people watching."

### Routines

Shopper Pat Cotterill, aged 67, from Worcester added: "It was really good, I have heard about it but never really seen it done before. I think it is a good way to keep fit."

The group was at the shopping centre for most of the afternoon and performed a series of routines.

To find out more information, email: team@ceroc-groove.co.uk



Right moves – Kieran Moore and Debbie

# JOBS IN PERIL AS TRADE CRIPPLED

TRADERS whose takings have more than halved since the beginning of a 15-month Black Country roadworks scheme have warned new year job losses will be unavoidable if business does not pick up early in 2011.

Shop owners in Cradley Heath say takings are less than a third of what they were before the £3 million A4100 scheme began in October. The scheme has been aimed at tackling on-street parking and congestion, including building new kerbs and also building parking bays for shoppers.

Sue Weston, of John Jones Footwear on Upper High Street, said she had been forced to make one worker redundant in November after takings plummeted due to the works.

Mrs Weston, who is now part of a staff of three, said: "Our takings have been hit so hard we have had to make one girl redundant."

"We don't know how we will be able to

keep the business open six days a week, we may have to cut down to five."

"We had to start our Christmas sale two weeks early and reduce stock to 50 per cent off just to get some cash into the business."

While works take place, Reddal Hill Road and Upper High Street are becoming one-way streets.

Traders say works have disrupted bus services, discouraging shoppers and the one-way system has hampered passing trade for business which rely on it.

### Hard

And drivers approaching from Old Hill are being taken away from shops in a 15-minute detour before returning to Upper High Street.

Stephen Pitts, owner of TeeT Shirts on Reddal Hill Road, said: "In the three years since we set up here our turnover has gone up 70 per cent every year but since these works started we're down to almost a third in takings."

Jayne Lakin, of Envy on Reddal Hill Road, said: "It hasn't picked up at all since works started. I think it will be hard after Christmas."

## Council set for High Court fight over mosque site buy-back bid

A BID to buy back land earmarked for a multi-million pound mosque in Dudley town centre has now been lodged with the High Court, it has been revealed.

Dudley Council bosses approved moves to claim back the land in Hall Street at a meeting in September, citing a clause in the land contract as a reason.

The clause meant the building had to be substantially completed by the end of December 2008. Since then officials have been preparing an application to the court which has now been submitted.

Dudley Council spokesman Chris Howes said: "We have issued

the papers in the High Court but do not yet have a date for the hearing."

Dudley Council has set aside £250,000 to cover the cost of the purchase. This includes £140,000 for the cost of the land and £110,000 for legal costs.

### Application

Outline plans for the new mosque and community training and enterprise centre were rejected by Dudley Council but overturned by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. A High Court overturned an appeal against the decision by Dudley Council.

Muslim leaders say the deal was

compromised when the council refused the original planning application for the scheme, expected to cost £12 million.

Chairman of Dudley Muslim Association Kurshid Ahmed said they were unaware of the latest council move, adding: "Our own detailed planning application will be submitted in the New Year."

Almost 60,000 people have signed three petitions opposing the mosque. Overturning the appeal against the decision by Dudley Council in 2009, the High Court judge ruled the Dudley Muslim Association must submit a full planning application by July 2011.

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# Restoration delay but conversion go-ahead

AN HISTORIC Black Country mansion house will be brought back to life as apartments after plans for its transformation were given the go-ahead.

The Grade II listed Corngreaves Hall in Cradley Heath will now be transformed into nine apartments while plans to construct a new block of six houses adjacent to the hall within the grounds have also been approved.

The house dates back to 1780 and has been empty since the 1970s. Since then it has been hit by metal thieves and arsonists. The problems have caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage to the building.

Sandwell Council planners welcomed the transformation of the landmark site, which comes on top of a £3 million project to restore the exterior.

Planning committee member, Councillor Roger Horton, said: "This has been going on for such a while, it is great to see something coming out of it."

## Objective

Permission to turn the hall into housing had already been granted by Sandwell Council in 2006, but no work ever started and in August 2010 Corngreaves Hall Ltd bought the property with the objective of restoring and developing it.

The latest plans were submitted by Corngreaves Hall Ltd which is the freehold owner of the Corngreaves Road site.

Alan Smith, of the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, which had been interested in trying to restore the building, has also supported the plans to restore the site.

"I do support bringing the hall back into use, particularly for residential use because that is what the building was used for originally," he said.

"That is the best purpose for it. If the job is completed sensitively it should be one of the best residences in Sandwell."

The transformation will see four apartments created on the ground floor, three on the first floor and two on the second floor,



Corngreaves Hall will be transformed from this vandal-hit building into flats. Right, the graffiti-daubed entrance and some of the restored windows

while the new block will feature six terrace-style two and three storey houses. The severe weather before Christmas had delayed restoration and put back the completion until this month.

Masons and specialist window restorers have been working on the hall. It was due to be completed by December. However, the bad weather combined with the challenging nature of the project has put work back.

## Eventually

Richard Hill, of Bonners, said before Christmas: "We will be working around the clock, at weekends and over the Christmas period to keep up with the works."

The hall was home to the Attwood family, ironmasters during the industrial development of the Black Country. Ownership eventually passed to Sandwell Council, which handed over the 1.2 acre site to Gr8 Space, of Worcester, in August.



## Festive home treat for patients

AN INNOVATIVE scheme in Dudley has helped residents across the borough to spend Christmas at home this year as opposed to staying in hospital.

The service supported people who would normally need hospital care to receive support in their homes and by Christmas 148 people had benefited.

Dudley Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Dudley Council are behind the scheme, which is funded as part of the PCT's urgent care improvement programme.

People received health and social care support from an integrated team made up of nurses and social workers.

## Avoid

Some people were able to leave hospital to go home sooner than they would have done, and some people were able to avoid going into hospital at all.

Jenny Gale, from the PCT, said: "Without this service many of these patients may have been in hospital over the Christmas period."

"By providing a wide range of support, we are able to help to help people overcome their illnesses, be able to stay in their own home and avoid being readmitted to hospital."

Councillor Lesley Faulkner, cabinet member for adult and community services, added: "No one wants to spend Christmas away from their family and friends and without this service this may have become a reality for these patients."

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## Snow joke for the traditional hunts



The Albrighton Woodland Hunt at Hagley Hall

HARDY HUNTERS gathered for their traditional meetings amid scenes unchanged for hundreds of years – despite being hit by the big freeze.

The weather meant one of the biggest local hunts broke with tradition by leaving their horses behind. The Albrighton Woodland Hunt started off on foot from the 350-acre Hagley Park, near Stourbridge, on Monday, December 27 with the horses left in stables.

Around 300 people gathered in front of Hagley Hall as 33 traditional English hunting dogs were prepared ready to lead off.

Master huntsman Peter Swann said: "It was not safe to do the hunt with horses. With the hard ground and the snow it could have led to them injuring themselves. "It is frustrating but there was nothing we could do about the weather. We are so pleased with the turnout and it shows that we still have a lot of support."

The hunt followed its traditional path which spans from Bridgnorth down to the River Sever at Stourport and then eastwards to Bromsgrove, north to Wombourne and west back through Claverley.

Meanwhile hundreds gathered for the Meynell and South Staffordshire meet at Blithfield Hall in Admaston, near Rugeley. The cold weather prevented hunting but hundreds turned out anyway.

# Former JP and Inner Wheel president dies

By Tim Spiers

Tim.spiers@expressandstar.co.uk

A FORMER chairman of Dudley Magistrates and keen charity worker has died aged 94.

Florence Wilson, known to family and friends by her middle name of Vera, was born in Dudley in 1916 during the First World War.

The great-grandmother lived in the area until nine years ago when she moved near Nantwich to be near her son.

Mrs Wilson passed away in St Catherine's Care Home.

She first became a magistrate in 1965, going on to be deputy chairman of the Dudley Bench from 1980-1985 and then chairman in 1986, work which she "very much enjoyed" according to her son, Dr Michael Wilson.

Mrs Wilson, who was a member of the Conservative party, was also part of the Dudley Inner Wheel and her husband Norman, who passed away in 1991, was a Dudley Rotarian.

Dr Wilson, who is married to Tricia and has five children and 10 grandchildren, said his mother had an active social life and was well known in Dudley.

"Mother was quite stoical; rarely did she complain about anything – except if she couldn't get her weekly coiffure – and I cannot recall her ever being ill, not even during her final days," Dr Wilson, a former

pupil at Dudley Grammar School, said. "She was the youngest of five daughters of Ethel and Arthur Brazenell and long-outlived them all as she frequently reminded me."

The father, Arthur, was a cobbler at the family home in Wellington Road, Dudley, where Mrs Wilson grew up.

After leaving school, she went into clerical work and soon met Norman, whom she married aged 23 with only child Michael born within a year.

## Excitement

Mrs Wilson, who enjoyed watching cricket, snooker and speedway, helped out with meals-on-wheels in Dudley, as well as the family planning clinic at Holly Hall.

She joined Dudley Inner Wheel in the early 1950s and became president of the branch in 1960, remaining a member until she moved to Nantwich.

Dr Wilson added: "I remember how she particularly enjoyed the excitement of elections, when she would be out canvassing, and on Election Day itself taking supporters to vote and going to the count after the polls closed."

"She was dignified, non-judgmental, had a great sense of duty, dependable and com-



Great-grandmother and former magistrate Florence Wilson has died at the age of 94

passionate. No wonder therefore that she made a good magistrate but also a mum who I have loved and been very proud."

Dr Wilson added: "Whilst dad would regularly watch television in the evening, I can see mum now in the breakfast room at home in Tansley Hill Road reading the Express & Star and would not happily go to bed until she had completed the crossword."

"She remained a crossword fan until her mind gave up on her, about three years ago. "She was a very fine cook as many of you will attest having seen the girth of my father's waistline!"

"Mother always liked to look smart and was anxious that her hair was neat and tidy."

Mrs Wilson died in November.

## Icelandic banks to return £3.2m

ABOUT £3.2million of taxpayers' money lost when an Icelandic bank went bust will be recovered within two years, bosses claim.

But about £800,000 will be lost. Administrators expect to retrieve only 80 per cent of the investment.

Transport authority Centro placed £4m with the Heritable Bank in July 2008. But in October, as the global credit crunch devel-

oped, the Bank was placed in administration.

Centro spokesman Mark Langford said: "The timing of the return will depend on the economic climate."

"In October a fifth payment of £167,662 was received, making total payments to date £1,839m or 45.39p in the pound." Wyre Forest District Council is chasing £3m from Landsbanki.

## Scrap plans thrown out

PLANS for a scrap metal processing site in Rowley Regis have been refused by planners after objections. David Fellows, of M&S Alloys, Pleasant Street, West Bromwich, wanted to create the site on the vacant building contractor's yard in Portway Road.

There were concerns over smells, pollution, traffic, dirt and noise. Environmental health workers were worried it would be too close to houses.

## Home collections launch as snow hits charities

CHARITY shops across the Black Country have launched collection services from people's homes after donations fell in the big freeze.

The British Heart Foundation says donations fell by 80 per cent at the height of the freeze.

Staff have been offering to pick up unwanted items from people's homes if they cannot make it to the shop.

Volunteers have offered to

use their cars to do the collections and boost the charities' coffers.

Christine Jones, manager of the charity's Kidderminster branch, said: "I am always extremely grateful to the community for donating their unwanted items."

"Unfortunately, the recent extreme weather conditions have left many people in Kidderminster unable to give."

The shops have also been

holding half-price sales.

The PDASA in Stourbridge's Ryemarket also started doing collections after receiving less than a quarter of its usual number of donations.

Maria Perry, shop manager, said: "We have really struggled since the snow came down."

"On a normal day we would get about 15 bin bags of donations a day but that has dropped to three or less."

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# Maggie is talk of the town as she lifts charity hamper



Maggie Adams is presented with a Christmas hamper by (back from left) Talking Newspaper volunteers Pam Dowding and Julie Muckley, as well as HR manager at Sainsbury's, Debbie Gramann

A DUDLEY resident enjoyed a surprise Christmas present when she was named the winner of a Stourbridge charity's competition.

Maggie Adams won a hamper full of Christmas goodies in the competition, organised by the Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine.

Based in Stourbridge at the Mary Stevens Centre, the charity runs a free CD

service for visually impaired people and is part of the Thomas Pockington Trust.

Sainsbury's, which chose the Talking Newspaper as its charity partner of the year in 2010, also donated items to the winning hamper including food and drink.

Maggie was presented with her prize by Julie Bate and Debbie Gramann from Sainsbury's, as well as Talking Newspaper volunteers Pam Dowding and Julie

Muckley. Talking Newspaper coordinator Bronwen Hall said: "We are thrilled to be the charity partner of Sainsbury's and it's been fantastic working with such an enthusiastic and inspirational group of people."

For more details about the Talking Newspaper, which caters for 250 listeners, email [src@pockington-trust.org.uk](mailto:src@pockington-trust.org.uk) or call 01384 440333.

# Pair targeted charity shops in thefts spree

TWO shoplifters have avoided jail after going on a theft spree at charity shops in a Black Country town centre.

Tracey Brettie, aged 47, and Christopher Dixon, 45, stole clothes from four shops in Stourbridge during an afternoon. They were both given conditional discharges when they appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on December 29.

Brettie received 18 months and Dixon 12 months. This means that they will not immediately be punished, but if they re-offend within those periods they will be sentenced for both these crimes and any new offences.

Both pleaded guilty to four counts of shoplifting and Dixon also admitted being

in possession of amphetamines. The small bag of drugs was found in his sock when he was searched at Stourbridge Police Station after being arrested, said Mr Barry Sealeaf, prosecuting.

## Schizophrenia

The pair took a £5 pair of men's shoes from Happy Staffie Rescue in Market Street, a £1.99 pair of men's slippers from Scope, also in Market Street, a men's polo shirt worth £4 from the Cats Protection League in High Street, and men's trousers costing £33.95 from the Extra Care Charitable Trust in the Crown Centre.

The pair, who are both unemployed, stole the clothes for Brettie's partner to wear at an appointment the next day with social

services over gaining access to his son, said Mrs Amanda Tomkins, defending for Brettie. Dixon lives with Brettie and her partner at the home he owns in Spencer Court, Stourbridge. Mrs Tomkins said.

Staff at the Extra Care shop called police on December 15 after seeing the pair steal the trousers.

When police arrived, Dixon and Brettie had two carrier bags between them full of the stolen clothes, said Mr Sealeaf.

When questioned at the scene, they admitted that they were stolen, he said. Brettie and Dixon appeared separately in court on the same day.

Mr Philip Haycock, defending for Dixon, told magistrates his client suffered from schizophrenia.



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# Bar facing closure as inquiry is called for

## Ramble to reveal park history

NATURE fans and history buffs are invited to kick-start the new year with a ramble around one of the Black Country's most historic landscapes.

Staff at The Leasowes park in Halesowen will be hosting a two-hour tour of the site on Saturday, showing visitors around the restored areas of the site – including the High Cascade water feature – along with some wildlife spotting and information on the history of the Grade I Listed landscape.

Assistant warden Ewan Chapman said the restoration work had helped return the nature reserve to how it would have looked in the late 1700s, when founder William Shenstone first set the park up.

He said: "We have dozens of species of bird, including kingfishers which most people don't usually see so it's a bit of a treat. We also have typical English woodland wildlife like foxes and badgers."

Those taking part can meet at the wardens' base on the car park, off Mucklow Hill at 10am.

Booking is essential. For more information, call 01384 814642.



Assistant warden Ewan Chapman prepares a path for ramblers, who will be shown the High Cascade water feature at The Leasowes, Halesowen, and other sights

A VODKA bar set up without permission in a Black Country high street faces being shut down by the council following complaints from nearby residents.

AltoRego, situated above Prego Pizza in High Street, Kingswinford, has been open for months without the legal permission needed from the council.

Local councillors have called for an enquiry into how the bar was granted an alcohol licence when it didn't have a planning permit.

Council enforcement officers only discovered the bar when a member of the public complained about noise coming from the building.

The potential for legal action forcing the owners to remove all bar-related equipment and fittings will be discussed by councillors at a meeting on January 10.

Owner Jimmy Lee applied for retrospective planning permission in October but was refused due to the potential noise disturbance from the bar.

He has vowed to appeal any enforcement action and accused the council of being "all about the money".

## Phone mast bid hits first hurdle

RESIDENTS have won the first round of a battle to block plans for a 49ft phone mast at a gateway to Stourbridge.

People living near the proposed site at the junction of Bridgnorth Road and Lowndes Road in Wollaston feared the pole would be unsightly.

Planning officers at Dudley Council agreed the structure, which would have been operated by both O2 and Vodafone, would have a harmful impact on the area.

But applicant O2 confirmed it was likely to appeal against the decision, which would mean the Planning Inspector in Bristol would have the final say. The company wanted to install the pole with two equipment boxes and an electrical meter pillar. Ward Councillor Nicholas Barlow welcomed the council's decision to the refuse the plans.

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thechronicle

# Royal Mail losses bill at £600,000

## Student Santa at hospital



Spreading Christmas cheer at the hospital, from left: Students Danni Cooper and Natalie Lloyd, Catherine Hickman, from Dudley police, Jack Stevenson and students Abigail Pickercell and Lucy Mansell

SCHOOLCHILDREN from Sedgley helped local community support officers to spread some festive cheer.

Pupils from High Arcal School collected gifts and visited a local care home and hospital to hand out presents to those in need.

Children, accompanied by PCSO Emilie Foster, from the Upper Gornal and Woodset-

ton neighbourhood team. She spent time chatting with people and discussing local issues before giving out Christmas gifts on behalf of the community.

### Happy

Toys were given out to children at Russells Hall Hospital. The pupils also visited elderly residents of Island Court

Nursing Home, Brook Street, Woodsetton. PCSO Foster said: "It was lovely to see the young and elderly getting together as we tried to spread some Christmas cheer around the area."

"The youngsters at the hospital, and their families, were happy to see our little group and the whole initiative seems to have been well received."

## Talking about history

PEOPLE can delve into the past at a series of history talks in Dudley in the new year.

Historian Terry Church will visit Dudley Library to look back at the year 1942.

He will reminisce on his experiences and memories of the year on

January 26. Stourbridge Library will welcome Dr Peter King, on January 28 to present on the Stourbridge canal and River Stour.

He will give his talk in the Wollaston room at Stourbridge Town Hall.

ROYAL MAIL paid out more than £600,000 compensation in just one year after tens of thousands of complaints about lost and damaged post in the West Midlands and Staffordshire, latest figures reveal.

Payouts rose by £133,000 in 2009-10, fuelled by a significant increase in Sandwell and Birmingham where the bill for compensation topped £441,000.

The payouts follow 54,000 complaints resulting in 29,000 payments at an average of £18.

Data for the B, WV, WS, DY and ST postcodes covering the Black Country, Birmingham, Kidderminster and Staffordshire areas shows that most complaints in the region are about lost mail, but other payouts follow damage, delays or delivery to an incorrect address.

### Ratio

Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster residents made 4,300 complaints at a cost of £35,000, while the ST postcode covering Stafford, Stone and north Staffordshire saw £86,965 paid for 9,800 complaints.

In Wolverhampton 6,000 complaints resulted in payments of £44,000, while in the WS postcode for Walsall, Cannock and Lichfield there were 5,400 complaints costing the Royal Mail £49,000.

About 54 per cent of all complaints resulted in a payout with the highest payments to complaints ratio in Walsall, Cannock and Lichfield at 57 per cent.

The figures were released as the government plans to privatise the institution in a bid to turn around its fortunes.

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The Department for Work and Pensions said it is working hard to reclaim the arrears.

## Spin to win at leisure centre



The one-hour sessions begin next week on Wednesdays from 6.45pm, Thursdays from 7.15pm and Sundays from 9am. They have been introduced

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# Golden nectar at old brewhouse

AN HISTORIC micro brewery in the Black Country is fighting back against cheap booze in supermarkets with a range of popular ales.

Black Country Ales, based at the Old Bulls Head, Lower Gornal, supplies beer for 26 pubs across the West Midlands.

The tipples are brewed in a small out-building at the back of the pub and then distributed by the firm's one driver.

That site was used from 1840 for about 150 years, until the business died out as trade fell.

But it was brought back to life by brewer Guy Perry seven years ago when he suggested to landlord Angus McMeeking that there was a market for real ale.

Since then business has been booming and the company recently started selling beer to Wetherspoons.

Real ale is a rare bright spot in the UK's beer industry.

## Supply

While total beer sales fell four per cent in the year to 2009 – erasing 1.3m barrels from consumption – cask beer did not spill a drop.

Craft ales brewed in microbreweries account for eight per cent of Britain's total beer market, according to the Cask Report, and make up 15 per cent of all beers sold in pubs, bars and other so-called on-trade venues.

About 13,000 pints are produced each week at the Old Bulls Head using the brewery's three fermenting vessels.

Guy spends hours each day toiling away to get the perfect pint. He said: "It's hard work and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to producing great beer."

The brewery produces three main ales – Bradley's Finest Golden (BFG), Pig on the Wall and Fireside Bitter.

Its newest creation is Dudley Pale Ale, which launched for the town's ale festival earlier last month.

A basic ale recipe is used and then tweaked for each brand. Some have more



Guy connects pipes during the brewing process



The perfect pint – Guy Perry and Martin Wilkins enjoying the fruits of their labour



Guy and Martin take a quality check and, right, Guy fills the fermentation tank



hops, while others have more of a malt taste.

The total brewing process takes a week and there are always three loads of ale being produced at any time, to keep the supply chain going.

## Targets

A third of a ton of malt is poured into a huge vessel at the start, before 4,500 pints of water are added and about 100lb of hops. It is then pumped into a fermenter and left there for six days.

Brewery director Martin Wilkins said there were plans to extend the brewery but

they did not want to lose its family atmosphere.

"We've had the idea before of spending £500,000 on a new building," he said.

"But then we would have higher targets to reach and it would change the way we work," he said.

Martin has plans to turn the brewery into a visitor centre, though, so customers can see exactly how the ale they are drinking is made.

He added: "There's nothing better than a pint of locally brewed ale. I think people prefer that to the mass produced lagers of the supermarket."

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## thechronicle

### A darker side of history

FROM riots and plagues to pick-pockets and murder, people can learn about the dark side of Dudley in a new series of tours.

The Dudley History Tours will take place on selected Sundays throughout the year, starting on January 30.

Anyone interested in taking part should meet at the Court House pub in New Street,

Dudley, to tour some of the borough's most historic locations and learn about the history behind them, including sites of medieval markets.

The tours will begin at 7pm and will last around two-and-a-half hours.

Organisers have said that the tours are not suitable for under 16s.

Tickets are priced at £6, and are available on 01384 812812.

# Watchdog fears over resiting of old mosaic

## Scary Canary business takes off

A couple who launched an internet business with their last pound are now rated as a leading supplier of vintage clothes – and have a busy boutique in the Black Country.

Steve Pilcher and his fiancée Stacey Smith, of Cross Street, Stourbridge, started their Scary Canary clothing line two years ago when they found they were on their uppers, with a bank overdraft.

"I literally spent our last pound on a green dress that I spotted as being vintage in a charity shop in Bearwood," said Stacey, aged 29. "We put it on eBay and got £20 for it, which we then invested in more stock."

"The business built up and we started buying bigger batches of vintage clothes and set up our website [www.scarycanaryclothing.co.uk](http://www.scarycanaryclothing.co.uk) from our basement."

"We were recently approached by Vogue magazine to go into a feature."

The boutique, in Victoria Passage, off High Street, Stourbridge, which employs two full-time staff and someone for Saturdays, now stocks not only vintage clothing but also lines by leading designers such as Burberry and Aquascutum.

It also showcases local young designers, including 17-year-old Emma Cope.



Owners Steve Pilcher and Stacey Smith at the Scary Canary shop in Stourbridge

FEARS have been expressed over the future of a historic mosaic when it is removed during a £50 million overhaul of a Black Country shopping centre.

The artwork, which depicts Stourbridge's coat-of-arms, is to be taken up when work begins at the town's ailing Crown Centre.

Stourbridge Township Council says it has been assured the mosaic will be restored to the centre once the redevelopment is finished but claims there are still unanswered questions.

Members of the watchdog group are concerned they still have not been told where the mosaic will be sited in the new look centre. And they are worried about how it will be removed from the floor of the existing centre.

They say the mosaic is already cracked from when it was moved to the centre from its original location at the former Odeon Cinema, now Wilkinson's, in the High Street.

And they fear it could be damaged further during the next move.

The township council says it will be seeking answers before any work begins. Plans for the revamp of the Crown Centre, which includes the creation of a 60,000sq ft Tesco superstore, have already been submitted to Dudley Council.

Township council chairman Margaret Scott said members would be keeping a close eye on what was happening when work started.

The mosaic, which dates back to the 1920s, was rediscovered in 1996 when demolition started on the old cinema building in preparation for the Wilkinson's store to be built.

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## Customers curious to find warm wares to purchase



Debbie Lester at The Old Curiosity Shop, in Kingswinford

ANTIQUE fire guards, coal scuttles and pokers have been flying off the shelves at a Kingswinford shop as customers battled the big freeze.

The Old Curiosity Shop, in Market Street, has seen a rise in the number of traditional fireside items being sold since the start of the cold spell at the beginning of December. Staff at the shop, which sells antiques and collectables from the Victorian period onwards, say many people now

use log burners to heat their homes and more traditional items are needed to stoke the flames to produce more heat.

Shop worker Debbie Lester, aged 42, of Oak Street, said there had been a rise in the number of people coming in looking for fireside goods in the lead up to Christmas.

"The older items, such as fireguards and coal scuttles, have been in demand since the cold spell started and we have sold around 15 sets in all over the past few

weeks," she said. "A lot of people use log burners and these items are perfect for their needs as well as being appealing to look at."

"A lot have also come in to look at our clothing, if they are seeking something a little different for their Christmas parties."

The store, which has been running for around 15 years, has also seen a rise in the number of customers coming in looking for older styles of clothing for the party season.

## Crossroad safety fear after crashes

SAFETY fears have been raised over a "nightmare" crossroads in Stourbridge after two recent crashes and a number of near misses.

There have been calls for action to improve safety before someone is killed.

Drivers cutting across the busy A4036 Pedmore Road from Cemetery Road, Lye, have been involved in smashes. Recently four people were injured.

About 30 residents have launched a campaign to get the layout of the junction changed and ban people from driving straight ahead or turning right.

Ward councillor Mohammed Hanif is setting up a public meeting with highways chiefs in the new year.

He said: "We are fed up with this and we want something done before someone is killed. There are near misses every day and I'm surprised there haven't been more bad crashes."

There were two crashed in December in which four people suffered minor injuries.

Councillor Hanif said he feared the next crash could be fatal. Resident Neil Marshall, 41, of Pedmore Road, said: "I've been driving down Pedmore Road and people have just pulled out in

front of me. It's such a busy junction that I don't think it's their fault."

"The main road is three lanes wide and I don't think they realise how difficult it is to get across."

But Mark Edwards, 29, of Cemetery Road, said: "Traffic is already bad enough around here and we don't want it made any worse."

"Restricting where people can turn is only going to create more problems in my eyes."

Dudley Council's traffic manager Peter Van Geersdaele said the authority was looking into the issue and would see if a solution could be found.

## Wanted – gifts you don't want

UNWANTED Christmas gifts are needed to help stock the shelves of charity shops in Dudley and Kidderminster.

The Salvation Army has launched its Christmas gift amnesty, which runs until the end of February. Donations will either be re-used or recycled with the profits going to the charity.

Shops in High Street, Dudley, Ryemarket Centre, Stourbridge, and Swan Centre, Kidderminster, will accept anything from clothes to toys, CDs, DVDs and bric-a-brac.

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### Residents can have their say

TENANTS and residents in Dudley can have their voices heard at a series of public meetings in the new year. Holly Hall and Woodside Tenants and Residents Association holds its meeting on January 12 at Woodside Community Centre, in Highgate Road, Holly Hall, at 7pm.

The Sledmere housing form will meet at the Sledmere Community Centre, in School Drive, Dudley, at 6.30pm, on January 25. In Halesowen, the New England neighbourhood forum meets on

January 13 at Olive Hill Primary School, in Springfield Road, at 6.30pm. On January 17, Norton Green tenants and residents association meet at Gigmill Primary School, in The Broadway, Norton, Stourbridge, at 7pm.

The Wollaston Farm group meet at St. James's Primary School, Kingsway, Wollaston, on January 25 at 7pm. Two days later Green Street Gardens Tenants and Residents Association at the meeting room at Bailey Court at 7pm.

# Malcolm's glass proves smash hit

GLASS artist Allister Malcolm is celebrating a bumper order book after his prized glasswork appeared on a television makeover show.

The 35-year-old is resident glassmaker at Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford.

He was surprised recently when TV interior design guru Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen arrived out of the blue at his studio within the museum attraction.

Llewellyn-Bowen turned up with TV crews for his new daytime show House Gift to purchase a unique ornament for a house he was redesigning in the region.

### Similar

He brought a £650 bespoke piece called Iris which is split into three sections using scarlet coloured glass and takes its inspiration from an eye.

Within five minutes of the programme airing last week, people began calling the museum, and four similar pieces had been sold before the end of the day.

To have people calling up saying they love the work and wanted one for themselves is lovely and makes it all worthwhile," he said.

"There was a meltdown on the phones after the show. I think that we have had 50 inquiries already, and about 15 orders are being prepared at the moment."

"Usually I expect January to be quiet but not this year."



Glass artist Allister Malcolm with work similar to that which Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen, left, watched Allister create

### Woman died in her home

A WOMAN died at her home following an overdose of medication combined with alcohol, an inquest heard.

Social workers discovered Alison Murphy, aged 62, dead at her home in Central Avenue, Wollaston, on February 27.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain returned an open verdict at the inquest at Dudley Coroners Court last month.

He said there was not sufficient evidence to say whether she had intended to take her life. A post mortem revealed quantities of Citalopram, codeine, paracetamol and alcohol in her system.

Mrs Murphy, who lived alone, had a history of anxiety and depression and had been in contact with the Hill House Centre, Stourbridge, after moving from Devon.

Social workers Tina Stevens and Mandy Shinton discovered her dead in the lounge.

### Taste of the 20s

MUSIC fans can get a taste of the 20s in a new daytime show booked at Dudley Concert Hall in February. The Sensational Charleston Chasers will be at the hall in St James Road, at 2pm on February 15. Tickets cost £10 and are available on 01384 815877.

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# Bongo basher Wagner gets hero's welcome back home

WACKY Wagner Carrillo wowed his devoted fans in his first West Midlands gig since leaving the X Factor – and pocketed £3,000 after singing just five numbers at Stourbridge's River Rooms.

It may seem bizarre, but this mediocre singer with winning ways from Pensnett now commands fees topping that at some of the venues he is playing.

"Not bad for someone who was struggling to get a job and was on incapacity benefit after three operations on his shoulder – walking miles with his arm in a sling to save the £1.50 bus fare," said Wagner, aged 54, after delighting a sell-out crowd of around 350 with his

**X Factor hero Wagner returned in triumph to sell out a gig at Stourbridge. Louise Jew reports**

operatic warbling, bonkers bongo playing and energetic dancing.

He made a star's entrance on December 28, complete with burly minder who controlled all access to Wagner during the evening, making fans queue up for their turn to have their photos taken with their idol on stage at the end of the performance.

He lapped up the chants of "Wagner, Wagner" as he strutted around the stage, shaking hands with fans in the front row and announcing: "It's nice to be back home. When we are here the impression is the Black Country belongs to us."

He launched into "O Sole Mio" in a

set accompanied by music tapes – but, unlike in X Factor, without backing dancers.

## Melody

Then it was time for his bongo playing to shine as he beat up Beethoven's beautiful melody, "Für Elise", murmuring a Barry White style "tousjours l'amour" towards the end and rolling up his sleeves to reveal his tattooed forearms.

His versions of The Lambada, Jumping Jack Flash and Bob Dylan's Make You Feel My Love followed – and he ended up with a pair of red and white spotted knickers on his head, thrown to him by a fan.

The audience – many of whom had voted for him so that he survived in the X Factor until week eight – loved it all, declaring the £10 entry ticket well

worth it. "He blew me away," said Celyn Billingham, aged 23, of Bredon Avenue, Stourbridge. "I'm a massive fan – he's fun."

Andrew Fellows, aged 23, of Marl Road, Netherton, declared: "He was like a Pensnett Tom Jones."

Hayley Mason, aged 22, of Seven Dwellings View, Withymoor Village, Ambicote, Stourbridge, said: "I thought he was sexy."

And her friend, Emma Pinion, of Plants Hollow, Withymoor, decided Wagner was "fabulous – very hot".

Andy Matthews, aged 26, who lives in Hodnet Drive, Pensnett, close to Wagner's Blewitt Street home, said: "I'm deaf but can lip-read and love his act."

Jon Taylor, aged 22, of Brookdale, Gornal, Dudley, said: "Wagner has made this area proud and it shows you don't have to be a stereotype to go far in this kind of competition."

And Kelly McConnell, aged 22, of Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, said: "Wagner's wicked."

River Rooms owner Mark Ellis said: "We approached the X Factor about booking Wagner and were delighted and excited when he accepted."

"The fee was £3,000 – but it's well worth it when you consider we sold all the tickets and have had a good night on the bar."

Backstage, after a half-hour-long session in which his minder took photos of him with groups of fans, Wagner said he was now performing four or five gigs per week, each earning at least the £3,000 he was paid by the River Rooms.

"Sometimes I do three gigs in a night," he said.

"Of course, I'm enjoying it and everywhere I have been I have had a good reception."

He added that he had not splashed out on any luxuries with his new-found wealth – but confessed he had bought a white rabbit, which he has named Mandy, after his friend Mandy Dhalwal, who owns the Tasty Fish Bar in Pensnett.



Fans fight for Wagner's attention at the star's homecoming



Wagner is wicked, say Adele Hickman, Kelly McConnell, Rebecca Smith and Jeni Love



Massive fans – Rachael Cox, Jon Taylor, Laura Brennan, Celyn Billingham, Andrew Fellows

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thechronicle

# Lion locomotive is on track for Hollywood

STOURBRIDGE'S pioneering steam locomotive is on track to feature in a film by Hollywood director Ridley Scott – thanks to two amateur film-makers from the town.

The Stourbridge Lion staked a place in history when it became the first steam locomotive to run on rails in America back in 1829.

Now amateur film-makers Chris Armfield and Gary Rogers have captured the history of the site where it was made and other images of Stourbridge for a global video project launched by Scott.

The scheme challenged film-makers across the world to gather footage from where they lived on a single day, July 24 this year.

The best footage will be chosen by the Hollywood director for inclusion in the film, creating a time capsule of what was happening in the world on that day.

Mr Armfield, aged 51, of Ballarat Walk, Stourbridge, and Mr Rogers, 41, of Wollaston, are delighted that their footage has made it to the last 100 hours of material to be considered out of more than 80,000 hours submitted by hopefuls around the world.

They will learn later this month if their footage has made it through to the final cut of the film which will premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

They filmed at the town's Bonded Warehouse, in Canal Street, and the now derelict Foster, Rastrick & Co foundry, in Lowndes Road, where the Stourbridge Lion was made.

## Sister

The locomotive earned its name from the picture of a lion's face that was painted on its front by the builder.

Although Stourbridge was not a major railway centre during the railway age, it did produce two locomotives of historical significance – the Lion and its sister engine Agenoria which still survives at the National

Railway Museum in York.

Mr Armfield said: "We are both very proud of Stourbridge."

"Many Americans have heard of the Stourbridge Lion," he added.

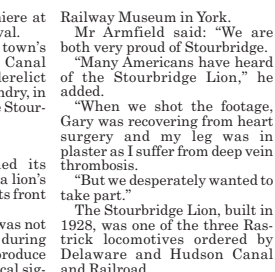
"When we shot the footage, Gary was recovering from heart surgery and my leg was in plaster as I suffer from deep vein thrombosis."

"But we desperately wanted to take part."

The Stourbridge Lion, built in 1828, was one of the three Rastrick locomotives ordered by Delaware and Hudson Canal and Railroad.

It arrived in New York aboard the John Jay with two other locomotives in May 1929.

Stourbridge Lion painting which was in the Delaware and Hudson office



Chris Armfield and Gary Rogers outside the former Foster, Rastrick & Co building, Stourbridge, where they shot scenes

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# Chainmaker Sarann a link to family past - aged nine



Sarann Bradney, 7, hard at work in the chain shop

HEARING the clunk of a steel hammer against the links of a chain, you would expect the person doing the battering to be a brawny man rather than a nine-year-old girl.

Sarann Bradney has been going to Mushroom Green Chain Shop, in Netherton, since she was just three months old to watch her father Mick at work. Mick is the sixth generation of chainmakers and is keen to teach the skills that have been passed down to him from his great-great-grandfather, who was from Mushroom Green.

His family had a chain shop in the village for around 200 years and he grew up surrounded by the industry.

## Different

Standing by the red-hot furnace at the Quarry Road chain making museum, Mick says: "As we waited for the bus in the morning to take us to Congreaves School we would stand by the fires to keep warm."

"There were chainmakers, fires and furnaces everywhere round here. People can't imagine it these days, but even at 5am you would hear the hammers going."



Mick Bradney, Annette and daughter Sarann

Mick, who works at Solid Stampings, in Cradley Heath, recalls how his father Arthur would take him to various chainmaking workshops. The young lad would cautiously stand by the doors and watch the men at working on the huge links.

"It was something I always wanted to do," says Mick, now 61. "From the age of five my dad would put me by the fire with a piece of iron, a pair of tongs and a hammer, and let me play."

"At that time there weren't any women chainmakers, although I know that my grandmother and her mother had done it."

Mick still uses a hammer that is around 100 years old and was used by his great-grandmother.

"I see hammers like this in museums, but because I'm a traditional chainmaker I still use the old equipment passed down to me," he says.

"The last women chainmaker was Lucy Woodall, but I'm keen to pass the skills on to the next generation. I've taught my wife Annette how to make chain and watching her learn these forgotten skills is like seeing a dinosaur come back to life."

Mick lives in Trejon Road, Cradley Heath with Annette and daughter Sarann. Annette says she has watched Mick making chain for years and then in May decided to give it a go. "I took it within weeks," says Annette, aged 46.

"A few months ago I did my first demonstration at the Mushroom Green shop and then went over to the Black Country Living Museum. Once you're into it, chainmaking is addictive. I would like to teach other women."

## Original

The Mushroom Green chain shop dates from the 1950s and is run by Dudley Council. Records show chainmaking in Mushroom Green in 1810. Workers who made nails adapted their hearths to make chain.

By the end of the 19th century most properties in Mushroom Green had a chain shop close to them and several survived into the 20th century.

Only one remains in its original form, having been restored by the council and the Black Country Society.

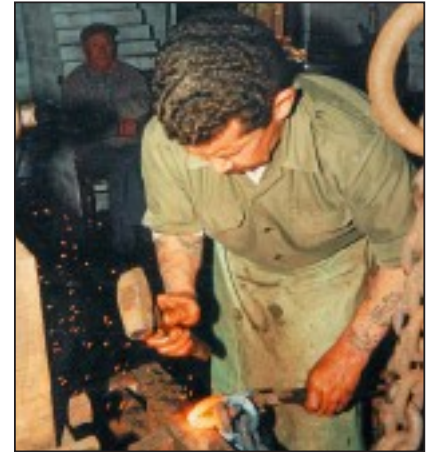
Sarann, a pupil at Timbertree Primary School, in Valley Road, Cradley Heath, says she has grown up watching her dad making chain.

"I have been coming down to Mushroom Green since I was little. I've always been interested in it and want to be a metal work artist. I'm a different girl to the others at school as they are into new clothes and shoes," she says.

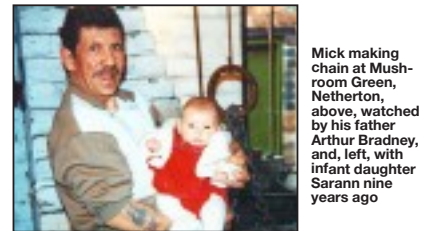
"I think I'm better off than them because I have a loving family - and my chainmaking."



Annette Bradney warms to her task at the furnace



Mick making chain at Mushroom Green, Netherton, above, watched by his father Arthur Bradney, and, left, with infant daughter Sarann nine years ago



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thechronicle

## Tony has been a brick for 50 years



Retiring after 50 years, Tony Walters, right, with managing director Alex Patrick-Smith and staff cheering him on his way

**BRICKMAKER** Tony Walters is laying the foundations for a happy retirement after building a reputation as a loyal worker during 50 years with the same Black Country firm.

Staff turned out to cheer Mr Walters when he bowed out of his job at Hinton, Perry & Davenhill Ltd, Pensnett.

The 65-year-old was presented with a long service medal by the firm's managing director Alex Patrick-Smith.

"There have been so many great memories," Mr Walters said.

He started fresh from Pensnett Secondary Modern School, aged 15, helping out in the yard.

"It was tough as it was quite a physical job," he said. "I remember walking past one day, and thought I'd ask if they had any work. The foreman said 'can you start Monday?' and off I went."

He began working in the pressworks at the firm, based in Dreadnought Lane.

Mr Patrick-Smith said: "It is a pleasure to have someone like Tony working for us."

Mr Walters officially retired on Christmas Eve.

## Criminal couple get sent to prison

A COUPLE of prolific Black Country criminals have each been jailed for 30 months after bungling two burglaries.

Robert Darby and his partner Sarah Ray tried to kick in the door of the home of an 86-year-old partially sighted woman, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said: "She heard the banging and came down in the chair lift to shout at them through the closed door 'What do you want?'"

The two escaped in a car.

Fifteen minutes after the incident in Green Acres, Sedgley, in October, they struck again in nearby Wolverhampton Road.

### Found

This time they did batter down the door and got into the property but fled empty handed after being disturbed, Mr Lees added.

The burglar alarm keypad had been torn from the wall and 33-year-old Ray's fingerprints were found on the remains, the court heard. They were arrested soon afterwards. She had a dozen previous convictions while Darby, 41, had been convicted of 131 offences. They admitted burglary and attempted burglary.

Sarah-Jayne Buckingham, defending, said the couple were drug users and had fallen behind with the rent on their flat in St Marks Road, Tipton.

## Hospital wait

**PATIENTS** attending Dudley Group of Hospitals had an average referral waiting time of 10 weeks, with 97.4 per cent treated before the 18 week target, according to official figures.

## School puts in plan for extension

**PLANS** for a two-storey extension to a Dudley school have been lodged with the council. Bishop Milner Roman Catholic School wants to create a new entrance and lobby as well as additional administration offices.

A medical room and a private room for visitors and parents will also be

constructed at the Burton Road school, which does not have a medical room or quiet room where pupils can rest while suffering from minor injuries or illness. Pupils have to sit in the foyer while receiving treatment.

Dudley Council will be considered the plans in the coming months.

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Two days departing April 14



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- Free time in London
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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Two days departing April 19



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## The Olympic Park and London's Historic East End

Two days departing April 22



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- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
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- Visit to Greenwich
- Guided walking tour of London's historic East End
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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- A ride on the North Yorks Moor Railway
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Two days departing May 14



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- Entrance to the Royal Windsor Horse Show
- A panoramic sightseeing tour of London
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• January •

<b>Mo</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Tu</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	
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<b>Th</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	
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<b>Su</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	

• **March** •

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• **May** •

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• **July** •

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• **September** •

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• November •

Mo	November				
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Su	6	13	20	27	



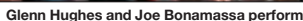
# Delight as fans take Communion with supergroup

"It's fantastic to be at the Civic



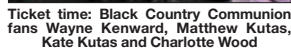
Fans travelled from around the country to see the show. They included electrical contractor Mike Carroll, aged 54, from Southport, who made the journey

He said: "I was into the whole Led Zeppelin music scene." Miss Todd said: "My dad got me into this music. It's brilliant and Joe Bonamassa is a great artist."



# Molten metal flows as band makes a triumphant return

Joining him was Dudley-born Jason Bonham, a great drummer like his late father, the Led Zep sticksman John; and two Americans, guitarist Joe Bonamassa and keyboardist Derek Sherinian.



The combination of four great talents gelled to perfection. Hughes can still hit notes only previously attained by scalded

The crowd seemed reluctant to leave until Hughes promised that the band would return in the summer to commune some more.

**Leon Burakowski**

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<h3>Andre Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra</h3> <p>Two days departing April 20</p> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <b>PRICE FROM £165</b> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return coach travel</li> <li>• Dinner (just before &amp; after the concert)</li> <li>• A central ticket to see Andre Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra at the O2 Arena, London (ticket upgrade offers)</li> <li>• Return coach transfer between the hotel and the O2 Arena to central London</li> <li>• Services of a tour manager</li> <li>• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies</li> </ul> <p><small>Organised by: Music and Events Ltd (M&amp;E) 01203 210000</small></p>	<h3>Spalding Flower Parade and Barnsdale Gardens</h3> <p>Two days departing April 30</p> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <b>PRICE FROM £99.<sup>95</sup></b> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return coach travel</li> <li>• Dinner (just before &amp; after the parade)</li> <li>• Ticket to Spalding Flower Festival</li> <li>• Entrance to Spalding Garden's Barnsdale Gardens (ticket to Spalding)</li> <li>• Services of a tour driver</li> <li>• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies</li> </ul> <p><small>Organised by: The Great Lakes Co. (G&amp;L) 01203 210000</small></p>
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<h3>Madam Butterfly at the Royal Albert Hall</h3> <p>Two days departing March 6</p> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <b>PRICE FROM £139.<sup>95</sup></b> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make your own way a return standard class rail travel to London</li> <li>• Overnighted at a hotel (before &amp; after the concert)</li> <li>• Dinner (just before &amp; after the concert)</li> <li>• A central ticket for the evening performance at the Royal Albert Hall (upgrade offers)</li> <li>• Return coach transfer from the hotel to the Royal Albert Hall</li> <li>• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies</li> </ul> <p><small>Organised by: Stagecoach Holidays Ltd (SHL) 01203 210000</small></p>	<h3>Lake Garda</h3> <p>Eight days Various departure dates</p> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <b>PRICE FROM £309</b> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return flights</li> <li>• Evening meal hotel accommodation</li> <li>• Special excursion to a field</li> <li>• Services of a tour manager</li> <li>• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies</li> </ul> <p><small>Organised by: The Great Lakes Co. (G&amp;L) 01203 210000</small></p>
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M08PME	MG ZR-1.8 3dr 120	Grey	33,995	<del>£3,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£90.90	D15PMEZ	SEAT Altea 5Dr 1.9 TDI S	Blue	30,995	<del>£7,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£202.28
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M060QU	Kia Rio 1.6 5 Door Hatchback	Silver	34,495	<del>£3,795</del>	<b>£700</b>	£98.30	V008FT1	Ford Fiesta 2.0 ST 180hp	Blue	38,995	<del>£8,295</del>	<b>£700</b>	£209.70
Y038YUB	Ford Focus 1.6 3 Door	Silver	34,495	<del>£3,895</del>	<b>£600</b>	£103.80	KY08WVC	SEAT Leon FRID 3 Door Hatch	Grey	39,495	<del>£8,495</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£214.68
Y038YUB	Kia Magenta 1.8 Auto	Silver	34,495	<del>£3,895</del>	<b>£500</b>	£103.28	V038ZLZ	Splash 3Dr EST 1.0 GLS	Charcoal Black	38,995	<del>£8,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£214.68
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Y038YUB	Hyundai Getz 1.6 3 Door Hatch	Red	34,495	<del>£3,895</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£103.28	V038ZLZ	Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.6 Auto	Black	38,995	<del>£8,795</del>	<b>£200</b>	£222.06
Y038YUB	Kia Rio 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Red	34,495	<del>£3,895</del>	<b>£500</b>	£103.28	C038PCA	Kia Ceed 5Dr HAT 1.6 3dr 7 ALI N	Black	39,995	<del>£8,995</del>	<b>£800</b>	£227.08
Y038YUB	Kia Rio 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Blue	34,495	<del>£3,895</del>	<b>£500</b>	£103.28	V038ZLZ	Subaru Impreza 1.8 5 Door Hatch	Blue	39,995	<del>£8,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£227.08
D038ZLZ	Suzuki Wagon 1.8 5 Door Hatch	Black & Silver	35,295	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£800</b>	£115.68	Y038YUB	SEAT Ibiza Sport 1.4 3 Door	Black	39,995	<del>£8,995</del>	<b>£700</b>	£227.08
Y038YUB	Glow 1.2 3 Door Hatch	Blue	34,495	<del>£3,895</del>	<b>£500</b>	£103.28	V038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 5Dr HAT 1.6 3dr 7 ALI N	Blue	39,995	<del>£8,995</del>	<b>£500</b>	£227.08
N038ZLZ	Ranah/Magnum/Kia 5 Door	Silver	35,495	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£126.00	U038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Silver	39,495	<del>£8,995</del>	<b>£1,500</b>	£227.08
N038ZLZ	Vauxhall Astra 1.8 5 Door Hatch	Silver	35,495	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£126.00	V038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Black	39,495	<del>£8,995</del>	<b>£1,500</b>	£227.08
Y038YUB	Suzuki Liana 1.8 5 Door Hatch	Bright Red	35,495	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£126.00	U038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Silver	39,495	<del>£8,995</del>	<b>£1,500</b>	£227.08
Y038YUB	Kia Rio 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Black	35,195	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£200</b>	£126.00	K038YUB	SEAT Leon Stylance 5 Door	Red	39,995	<del>£9,495</del>	<b>£1,500</b>	£239.40
N038ZLZ	Ranah/Magnum/Dynatronic	Blue	35,995	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£126.00	V038ZLZ	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 Sport 5 Door	Red	39,995	<del>£9,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£239.40
N038ZLZ	Nissan Micra Sport 5 Door	Silver	35,995	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£700</b>	£126.00	V038ZLZ	Ivan 1.2 5 Dr 5 Dr Hatch	Red & Silver	39,995	<del>£9,495</del>	<b>£300</b>	£244.35
N038ZLZ	Honda Civic Executive	Grey	35,495	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£126.00	V038ZLZ	Ivan SE 1.4 5 Dr PS	Black & Silver	39,995	<del>£9,495</del>	<b>£300</b>	£244.35
N038ZLZ	Ford Focus 1.8 5 Door Hatch	Black	35,495	<del>£4,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£126.00	U038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Black	39,995	<del>£9,795</del>	<b>£200</b>	£246.80
Y038YUB	Kia Rio 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Over White	35,995	<del>£5,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£140.40	R038YUB	Ford Focus Titanium 120	Blue	39,495	<del>£9,995</del>	<b>£500</b>	£251.78
Y038YUB	Kia Rio 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Galaxy Black	35,995	<del>£5,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£140.40	V038ZLZ	Hyundai i30 Comfort 1.6	Black	39,495	<del>£9,995</del>	<b>£500</b>	£251.78
Y038YUB	Nissan Micra Executive 5 Dr Hatch	Red	35,995	<del>£5,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£140.40	U038ZLZ	Saudi 90 Awo 2.0 1600 Convert	Black	39,995	<del>£9,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£251.78
N038ZLZ	Mercedes C200 1.8 1.8i Convertible	Silver	36,495	<del>£5,795</del>	<b>£700</b>	£147.80	V038ZLZ	Marussia C220 2.0 1.8i Convertible	Silver	39,995	<del>£9,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£251.78
N038ZLZ	Mini Mini Cooper 3 Door Hatch	Blue	35,995	<del>£5,795</del>	<b>£200</b>	£147.80	C038YUB	Seat Leon 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Red	39,995	<del>£9,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£251.78
N038ZLZ	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i Design	Green Tea	36,995	<del>£5,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£152.78	V038ZLZ	Swift 3Dr HAT 1.3 5 Dr	Kidney Blue	39,995	<del>£9,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£251.78
N038ZLZ	Kia Rio 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Red	36,995	<del>£5,995</del>	<b>£400</b>	£152.78	C038YUB	Marussia C220 2.0 1.8i Convertible	Silver	39,995	<del>£9,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£251.78
N038ZLZ	Vauxhall Astra 1.8 5 Door Hatch	Black	36,995	<del>£5,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£152.78	V038ZLZ	Ivan 1.2 5 Dr 5 Dr Hatch	Light Grey	39,495	<del>£10,295</del>	<b>£200</b>	£259.20
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N038ZLZ	Kia Rio 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Black	36,495	<del>£5,995</del>	<b>£500</b>	£152.78	V038ZLZ	Ivan Sport 1.4 5 Door Hatch	Galaxy Blue	39,495	<del>£11,295</del>	<b>£200</b>	£280.95
N038ZLZ	Saudi 90 Awo 2.0 1600 Convert	Blue	36,495	<del>£5,995</del>	<b>£700</b>	£152.78	R038YUB	Saudi 90 Awo 2.0 1600 Convert	Black	39,995	<del>£11,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£288.90
N038ZLZ	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Sapphire Blue	36,495	<del>£5,995</del>	<b>£500</b>	£152.78	N038ZLZ	Volvo V40 2.0 1600 5 Dr	Blue	39,995	<del>£11,495</del>	<b>£900</b>	£290.85
N038ZLZ	Toyota Aygo 1.0 5 Door Hatch	Silver	36,495	<del>£5,995</del>	<b>£500</b>	£152.78	V038ZLZ	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Grey	39,495	<del>£11,695</del>	<b>£800</b>	£290.85
N038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Alps Blue	36,995	<del>£6,295</del>	<b>£700</b>	£160.20	R038YUB	Chrysler Captiva 1.8 5 Dr	Green	39,995	<del>£11,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£301.28
N038ZLZ	Suzuki Liana 1.8 5 Door Hatch	Blue	36,495	<del>£6,295</del>	<b>£200</b>	£160.20	V038ZLZ	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Grey	39,495	<del>£11,995</del>	<b>£500</b>	£301.28
N038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Red	36,995	<del>£6,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£168.15	N038ZLZ	Audi A4 1.8 1.8i 5 Door Hatch	Black	39,995	<del>£12,495</del>	<b>£1,500</b>	£313.68
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N038ZLZ	Toyota Aygo 1.0 5 Door Hatch	White	37,995	<del>£6,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£177.50	K038YUB	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Grey	39,495	<del>£13,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£350.78
N038ZLZ	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Emotion Red	37,995	<del>£6,995</del>	<b>£1,000</b>	£177.50	V038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Silver	39,495	<del>£14,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£360.15
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N038ZLZ	SEAT Altea 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Blue	37,495	<del>£7,295</del>	<b>£200</b>	£184.95	V038ZLZ	Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.0 5 Dr	Grey	39,995	<del>£15,795</del>	<b>£200</b>	£378.33
N038ZLZ	SEAT Altea 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Black	37,995	<del>£7,495</del>	<b>£500</b>	£189.90	D038ZLZ	Kia Ceed 1.6 5 Door Hatch	Orange	39,995	<del>£16,295</del>	<b>£700</b>	£407.70
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## Friday

[illegible]

**BBC2** 5.00 CBeebies, 7.00 CBBC, 8.30 CBeebies, 11.30 Animal Park, (R) 12.00 Daily Politics, 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah, 1.00 Ready Steady Go!, 1.25 Coast, (R) 1.58 Live Shooker: The Kidzies, Coverage of the third test of Hameed quarterfinal, 5.15 Antipode Road Trip, 6.00 EyeLine, 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys, 7.00 Live Shooker: The Kidzies, The Fourth Deadly Sin, 11.45 The Big Bang Theory, 12.00 Mastermind, 2.30 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein, 3.00 Chat Time with Judy, 3.00 End

**TV** and Loos, 9:30 *Newsnight*, 11:00 *The Review Show*; *Weather*, 11:30 *Shooker: The Masters*, 12:30 *Shooker Extra*, 2:30 *BBC News*, 4:15 *Closure*.

**MTV** 6:00 *Dynasty*, 7:30 *London*, 8:25 *The Jersey Style Show*, 9:30 *This Morning*, 12:30 *Women*, 1:30 *ITV News*; *Weather*, 1:55 *Regional News*; *Weather*, 2:00 *My Best House*; *Wht*, 3:00 *Didi's on the Red Deal*, 5:30 *Regional News*; *Weather*, 6:00 *Doo Martin (P)*, 6:30 *The Choice*, 6:50 *Regional News*; *Weather*, 6:50 *ITV News*; *Weather*, 7:00 *Emmerdale*, 7:30 *Coronation Street*, 8:00 *Coronation Street*, 8:30 *Coronation Street*, 9:00 *Comedy Partners with Jason Atford*, 10:00 *ITV News at Ten*; *Weather*, 10:30 *Regional News*; *Weather*, 10:45 *The M.O.E. (P)*, 11:50 *90*.

**Part of an Antlerless Walk (R) 12.30** The Jones  
New! News! Headlines. 2.30 Flint US Midland.  
(1988) Thriller coped, during Danny Lee Jones.  
5.30 Flint Nightzone. 5.50 Flint Morning News.

**Channel 4** 6.05 The Hoobs (R) 6.30  
The Hoobs. (R) 6.35  
Freddie Spearhead. 7.25 Everybody Loves  
Raymond (R) 7.50 Flint US Midland.  
8.30 According to Jim (R) 9.00 Supermarket USA.  
(R) 9.30 Flint. 8.30 Flint. (1945) Supermarket  
comedy during Ray Harrison. 12.00 Channel 4  
News Summary. 12.05 Time in a Bed (R) 12.35  
Come Dine with Me (R) 1.05 Come Dine with Me.  
(R) 1.35 Come Dine with Me (R) 2.05  
Come Dine with Me (R) 2.30 Come Dine with Me (R) 3.30  
Countdown. 3.55 Flint on Me Deal. 5.00 Celebrity  
FiveGo To 6.00 The Simpsons (R) 6.30 Flint.  
7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.25 4thoughts (R) 7.50  
The Pawn King. 7.55 Jamaica's Fish Supper. 8.00  
The Flint US Midland. 8.30 Flint US Midland.  
9.00 Flint. 9.30 Flint. 11.30 Flint Hot Shot  
Port Dave. (1988) Spoof action movie coped,  
during Charlie Sheen. 12.50 Music on 4 Flint.

**White Lacs.** 105 My Name Is Earl (R) 1:55  
Comedy/Lad. (C) Karly (R) 2:20 Film: Baby Boy  
(2001) Premier. Drama, Curly Howard, Tracy Gilliam  
4:30 ER (R) 5:15 Courtroom (R) 5:55 Once

**Channel 5** 6:00 Millennium 6:15 The  
Bright Star, 11:00 The  
Vanessa Show, 11:55 CSI: Crime Scene  
Investigation (R) 12:30 Five News, 12:45  
The Wendy Eassey Show, 1:15 CSI: Crime  
Scene Investigation (R) 3:05 Film: The  
Legend of Sleepy Hollow (1999) 5:00 Five News  
at 5, Wednesday, 5:30 Newsline (R) 6:00 Monkey  
Lads, 6:25 Live from Studio Five, 7:00 Five News at  
7, 7:30 Millennium Zoo Edition (R) Five News  
Update, 8:00 Preview of the Countdown The  
Tuesday Show, 8:30 Newsline (R) 9:00  
CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (R) 9:35  
NCIS, 11:55 Cop in Clinic (R) 12:15 SuperCopino,  
6:00 Motorport Kinnid, 6:25 How Not  
to Decorate, 5:30 Wildlife SOS, 5:35 House Doctor.

[illegible]

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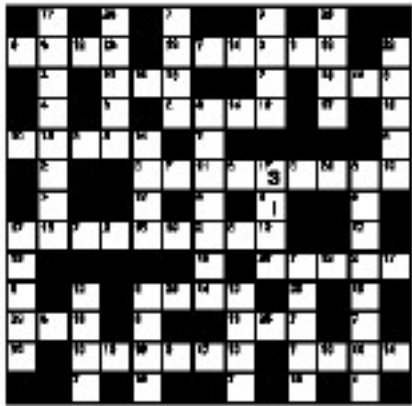
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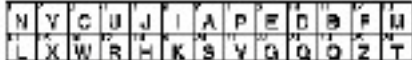
No.098

**Codeword**

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WORDS (SOLUTION)

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**Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

**Cryptic Clues**

Across

7. Signs of content in long line both (4)
8. Head on web, poem (4)
9. Happily gentle colour (4)
10. A first class colour spread abroad (4)
11. They go on foot on water only (4)
12. Long back that is not likely to repeat (4)
13. The outside of the open arch (4)
14. Musical of the night (4)
21. A word for a white paper (4)
22. She puts up with it in her term (4)

**Quick Clues**

Across

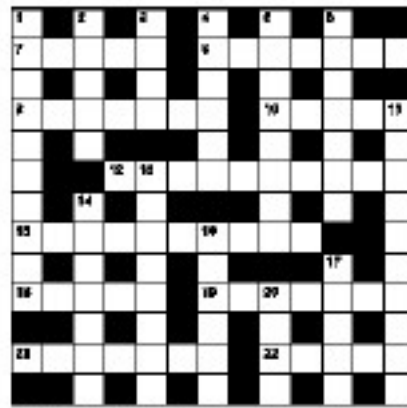
7. Signs (4)
8. Head on web (4)
9. Happily (4)
10. Gentle (4)
11. First (4)
12. Spread (4)
13. Arch (4)
14. Musical (4)
21. Paper (4)
22. Term (4)

Down

1. A word for a white paper (4)
2. She puts up with it in her term (4)
3. A word for a white paper (4)
4. A word for a white paper (4)
5. A word for a white paper (4)
6. A word for a white paper (4)
7. A word for a white paper (4)
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21. A word for a white paper (4)
22. A word for a white paper (4)

Down

1. A word for a white paper (4)
2. She puts up with it in her term (4)
3. A word for a white paper (4)
4. A word for a white paper (4)
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19. A word for a white paper (4)
20. A word for a white paper (4)
21. A word for a white paper (4)
22. A word for a white paper (4)



LAST WORDS (SOLUTION)

1. A word for a white paper (4) 2. She puts up with it in her term (4) 3. A word for a white paper (4) 4. A word for a white paper (4) 5. A word for a white paper (4) 6. A word for a white paper (4) 7. A word for a white paper (4) 8. A word for a white paper (4) 9. A word for a white paper (4) 10. A word for a white paper (4) 11. A word for a white paper (4) 12. A word for a white paper (4) 13. A word for a white paper (4) 14. A word for a white paper (4) 15. A word for a white paper (4) 16. A word for a white paper (4) 17. A word for a white paper (4) 18. A word for a white paper (4) 19. A word for a white paper (4) 20. A word for a white paper (4) 21. A word for a white paper (4) 22. A word for a white paper (4)

**Sudoku**

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and every one of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WORDS (SOLUTION)

**Circlegram**

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and of the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WORDS (SOLUTION)



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NEW

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**Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath**



£120,000

NEW

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**Trinity Street, Cradley Heath**



£147,000

NEW

Three bedroom semi detached property, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility, bathroom, three bedrooms, floor heating and central heating.

**Somerset Crescent, Oldbury**



£90,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, utility, wc, bathroom, double glazed front and central heating, driveway and rear garden.

**Coleman Hill Avenue, Halesowen**



£74,990

REDUCED

A three bedroom semi detached house with off street parking, offering lounge, dining kitchen, downstairs wc, bathroom, rear garden, NO UPWARD CHAIN.

**Barnard Road, Halesowen**



£90,000

Two bedroom semi detached property, NO UPWARD CHAIN, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing (where specified).

**Barkley Road, Rowley Regis**



£130,000

Three bedroom detached property, lounge, dining room, study, kitchen, double glazing and no, first floor bathroom, front and rear garden, central heating, garden, driveway.

**Red Lion Avenue, Halesowen**



£125,000

1-2 bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, wc, first floor bathroom, driveway, garden and garage, double glazing and central heating.

**Charlbury Road, Halesowen**



£174,995

This semi detached house has a lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, driveway, double glazing and central heating and double glazing.

**Highfield Road, Rowley Regis**



£105,000

A two bedroom detached bungalow with no upward chain and briefly comprising of lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom and rear garden.

**Tony Lane, Halesowen**



£199,990

Detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, wc, dining room, study/4th bedroom, 3 further bedrooms, bathroom, en-suite, garage, driveway, rear garden.

**Opdal Close, Halesowen**



£45,990

This first floor flat has communal security door, lounge/diner, kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom, communal gardens and communal parking.

**Beeston Street, Halesowen**



£150,000

Three bedroom detached property, lounge, dining room, cellar kitchen, bathroom and wc, driveway and garden, garage, landscaped garden to rear.

**Appley Way, Halesowen**



£115,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge/diner, kitchen, second reception room, bathroom, double glazing, driveway providing off road parking and rear garden.

**King Street, Halesowen**



Price: £149,990

This end terrace house has entrance lobby, downstairs wc, lounge, kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and double glazing.

**Chalfont Road, Halesowen**



£150,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, garage, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating.

**Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath**



£100,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating, no upward chain.

**Upper Ashby Street, Halesowen**



£90,000

A one bedroom house briefly comprising of a lounge, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, parking and double glazing (where specified).

**Reagh Hill Drive, Rowley Regis**



£185,000

Four bedroom detached property, garage and driveway, lounge, kitchen/diner, double glazing, patio to rear, double glazing and central heating.

**Balsdon Way, Rowley Regis**



£140,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, driveway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility and wc, garage, rear garden, bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating.

**Beecher Road, Rowley Regis**



£85,000

Terraced house with entrance lobby, two reception rooms, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden too benefiting from double glazing.

**Mixing Lane, Rowley Regis**



£90,000

Traditional semi detached house comprising lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, rear garden, NO upward chain. Also benefiting from central heating and double glazing.

**Golfers Close, Halesowen**



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Semi detached property comprising lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom, garage, front and rear garden.

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# French firm says its electronic alternative to a 4x4 is ideal for any further cold snaps

## Getting to grips with winter

BRITAIN'S big freeze has seen continued interest in 4x4s. But there can be big sacrifices to make on emissions, and therefore tax, fuel consumption and insurance costs for some models.

Now Peugeot is highlighting its 4x4 alternative, designed to give drivers enhanced driving ability in poor conditions, while remaining affordable and comfortable in everyday use.

The option is the firm's 3008 "crossover" fitted with Peugeot's innovative Grip Control.

Grip Control consists of an intelligent traction control system and special Mud and Snow tyres. It automatically improves traction on difficult surfaces such as snow, mud, dirt tracks and wet grass.

The system works with the vehicle's ESP (Electronic Stability Programme) to maintain the best possible traction from both front wheels. It has five selectable operating modes which can be chosen by the driver from a dedicated control mounted on the centre console.

In Standard mode, the vehicle's ESP system is calibrated for typical grip levels found on normal road surfaces, where there are low levels of wheel slip.

Snow mode adapts the system to gain the best traction from

each of the front wheels when the car is pulling away. As the car increases speed, the system constantly tweaks the traction control to maintain acceleration in the face of variable grip conditions.

The system returns to Standard once you are over 31mph.

All-terrain mode copes with mud, dirt tracks and wet grass by allowing a high level of slip on the least stable wheel when pulling away to remove excess mud and improve grip. At the same time, the wheel with the strongest grip level is given as much torque as possible.

### Modes

As the system is electronically controlled the torque offset between the front wheels can be as much as 100 per cent, well beyond normal limits for a limited slip differential. As the car gains speed, the system continually works against wheel slip to give the driver the best possible control over the vehicle up to 50mph.

Sand mode allows slight wheel slip on both drive wheels simultaneously, to allow the vehicle to make headway and reduce the risk of getting stuck in the sand. Here again, the control provided is superior to that of a limited slip differential

(LSD). In this mode, Standard mode kicks in automatically above a speed of 75mph. There is also an ESP Off setting, which disconnects ESP and Grip Control up to 31mph, giving control to the driver. Above this speed, "ESP Standard" selects automatically.

Peugeot's Grip Control option also includes the standard fitment of 215/60 R16 Michelin Latitude Tour HP "Mud and Snow" tyres, which are suitable for off-road use. These tyres have special StabiliGrip blades within the tread pattern that can lock together to maintain good tread contact with the driven terrain.

Grip Control gives the Peugeot 3008 Crossover a great all-round ability as well as providing excellent towing and carrying capabilities for better weather, making it a genuine car for all seasons.

And, when the weather changes the system has none of the disadvantages with regards to increased weight and emissions of a standard mechanical 4x4 system.

Peugeot's Grip Control is available as standard on the Peugeot 3008 SR Crossover and as a £470 option on the Peugeot 3008 Sport and Exclusive HDi 112 & HDi 150 Crossover models.

Prices for the Peugeot 3008 range start at £16,695 on the road.



The car has a well-equipped cabin



Grip Control offers all-weather ability without the weight and emissions of a 4x4. The Grip Control consists of an intelligent traction control system

## Renault slash prices to help offset VAT rise

ENERGY and train prices might be rising, but car buyers in the New Year can look forward to some January bargain-hunting now that the cost of buying many new Renaults is being cut in early 2011 – in spite of the increased VAT rate.

Following the recent simplification of its car range, Renault has announced key model pricing with immediate effect, including the new 20 per cent VAT rate.

The welcome news for anyone with funds left after the festive period is that many of the best-sellers will be the same price, or in many cases, substantially less than now, by up to £2,000.

Compared to October 2010 prices there are some substantial savings to be made, including many of the company's best-selling versions.

Among them, there is



There are New Year savings on Renaults, including the Megane

range GT Line TomTom V6 dCi 235 Auto is even more of a bargain, with £2,300 off of its former £30,800 list price.

The flagship of the Renault range, Grand Espace, also joins the New Year celebrations with £2,050 sliced off the Dynamique TomTom 2.0 dCi 150, now £26,550. Further down the range, up to £1,055 has been trimmed off Dynamique

TomTom versions of Megane Hatch, with an average of £410 off of the entry-level Expression versions too.

The svelte Megane Coupé has also slimmed down, with a sizeable £1,060 taken off the Dynamique TomTom 1.4 TcE 130, now £17,995, and a typical cut of £430 on Expression.

by up to £1,750 in the case of the flagship dCi 160, at £24,580.

Buyers seeking something equally stylish but more compact, could opt for Wind Roadster, now £500 less, starting at £15,000.

Other models offering significant price cuts are the Clio three, five-door and Sport Tourer range, typically between £500 to £600.

The new entry-level three-door Expression costs £10,250, that's £790 less than the previous Extreme, again without removing any kit.

Renault has also increased equipment specification at no extra cost. As a prime example of the added value, the svelte Laguna Coupé GT Line TomTom now boasts fully-integrated Carnat TomTom satellite navigation as standard, previously a £460 option, on top of the £1,970 price cut for the dCi 180 version.

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0808 CORSA DESIGN 1.2 16V 5DR AIR BLUE 13,500 MILES ACON	£8,795
0858 CORSA CLUB 1.2 16V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 20,000 MILES PLUS PACK	£8,495
0959 CORSA SXI 1.4 16V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 12,000 MILES ACON	£7,495
0959 CORSA SXI 1.4 16V 3DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 20,000 MILES ACON	£7,495
1059 CORSA SXI 1.4 16V 3DR STAR SILVER 15,000 MILES ACON	£7,495
1059 CORSA SE 1.2 16V 3DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 4,500 MILES ACON	£8,295
0909 TIGRA EXCLUSIV 1.4i 6V BLACK SAPPHIRE 9,000 MILES LEATHER TRIM	£9,495
0605 ASTRA BREEZE 1.6i 6V 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 36,000 MILES ACON	£4,795
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0808 ASTRA DESIGN 1.8 16V AUTO 3DR STAR SILVER 19,700 MILES	£8,895
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0959 ASTRA SRI 1.8 16V 5DR XP METRO BLUE 7,000 MILES 18" ALLOYS	£9,295
0959 ASTRA SRI 1.8 16V 3DR XP BLACK SAPPHIRE 12,500 MILES 18" ALLOYS	£10,295
0959 ASTRA SRI 1.8 16V 3DR XP TECHNICAL GREY 11,000 MILES 18" ALLOYS	£10,295
0808 MERIVA DESIGN 1.4 16V 5DR LANCELOT GOLD 20,000 MILES ACON	£8,995
0959 MERIVA CLUB 1.4 16V 5DR ULTRA BLUE 7,000 MILES ACON	£7,695
1010 MERIVA CLUB 1.4 16V 5DR STEEL BLUE 16,000 MILES ACON	£7,995
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0959 ZAFIRA DESIGN 1.6 16V METRO BLUE 5,500 MILES ACON	£10,295
1059 ZAFIRA DESIGN 1.6 16V PANACOTTA 5,000 MILES ACON	£10,495
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1010 ZAFIRA DESIGN 1.6 16V SILVER LIGHTNING 5,200 MILES ACON	£11,295
0757 VECTRA SRI 1.8 16V ESTATE POMEGRANATE RED 30,000 MILES ACON	£7,295
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63	FIESTA 1.4 2000 CC 3 DOOR, 3 DOOR DIESEL, BLACK, 0 MILES	£9,000	<b>£8,495</b>
64	FIESTA 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, VERDI, 131-95 MILES	£9,000	<b>£8,795</b>
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67	FIESTA 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, SEA GREY, 30,347 MILES	£9,900	<b>£9,795</b>
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78	FOCUS 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, SEA GREY, 0,000 MILES	£6,400	<b>£6,195</b>
79	FOCUS 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, BLACK, 4,000 MILES	£6,400	<b>£6,195</b>
80	FOCUS 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, 0 DOOR, WHITE, 0,000 MILES	£10,000	<b>£10,495</b>
81	FOCUS 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, VISION, 10,000 MILES	£11,400	<b>£10,995</b>
82	FOCUS 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, VISION, 1,000 MILES	£11,400	<b>£10,995</b>
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84	FOCUS 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, 0 DOOR, SILVER, 0,000 MILES	£12,400	<b>£11,995</b>
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<b>MONDEO</b>			
91	MONDEO 1.4 1.4 3 DOOR, SEA GREY, 2,000 MILES	£6,000	<b>£5,995</b>
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94	MONDEO 1.4 1.4 3 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 7 M DOOR, NAVI, BLACK, 0,100 MILES	£18,000	<b>£17,495</b>
95	MONDEO 1.4 1.4 3 DOOR, 0 DOOR, SEA GREY, 0,000 MILES	£10,000	<b>£17,495</b>
96	MONDEO 1.4 1.4 3 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 0 DOOR, BLACK, 14,000 MILES	£10,000	<b>£14,495</b>
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97	KUGA 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, REAR FOG, SILVER, 10,374 MILES	£16,000	<b>£15,495</b>
98	KUGA 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, 0 DOOR, BLACK, 10,000 MILES	£10,000	<b>£14,495</b>
99	KUGA 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 0 DOOR, CHILL, 10,777 MILES	£18,000	<b>£17,495</b>
100	KUGA 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 0 DOOR, CHILL, 10,000 MILES	£18,000	<b>£17,495</b>
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102	CITIROD 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, BLUE, 32,000 MILES	£8,000	<b>£7,495</b>
103	REAR LEATHER 1.4 2000 CC 5 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 0 DOOR, 0 DOOR, AUTOMATIC, DARK BLUE, 0,000 MILES		<b>£610</b>
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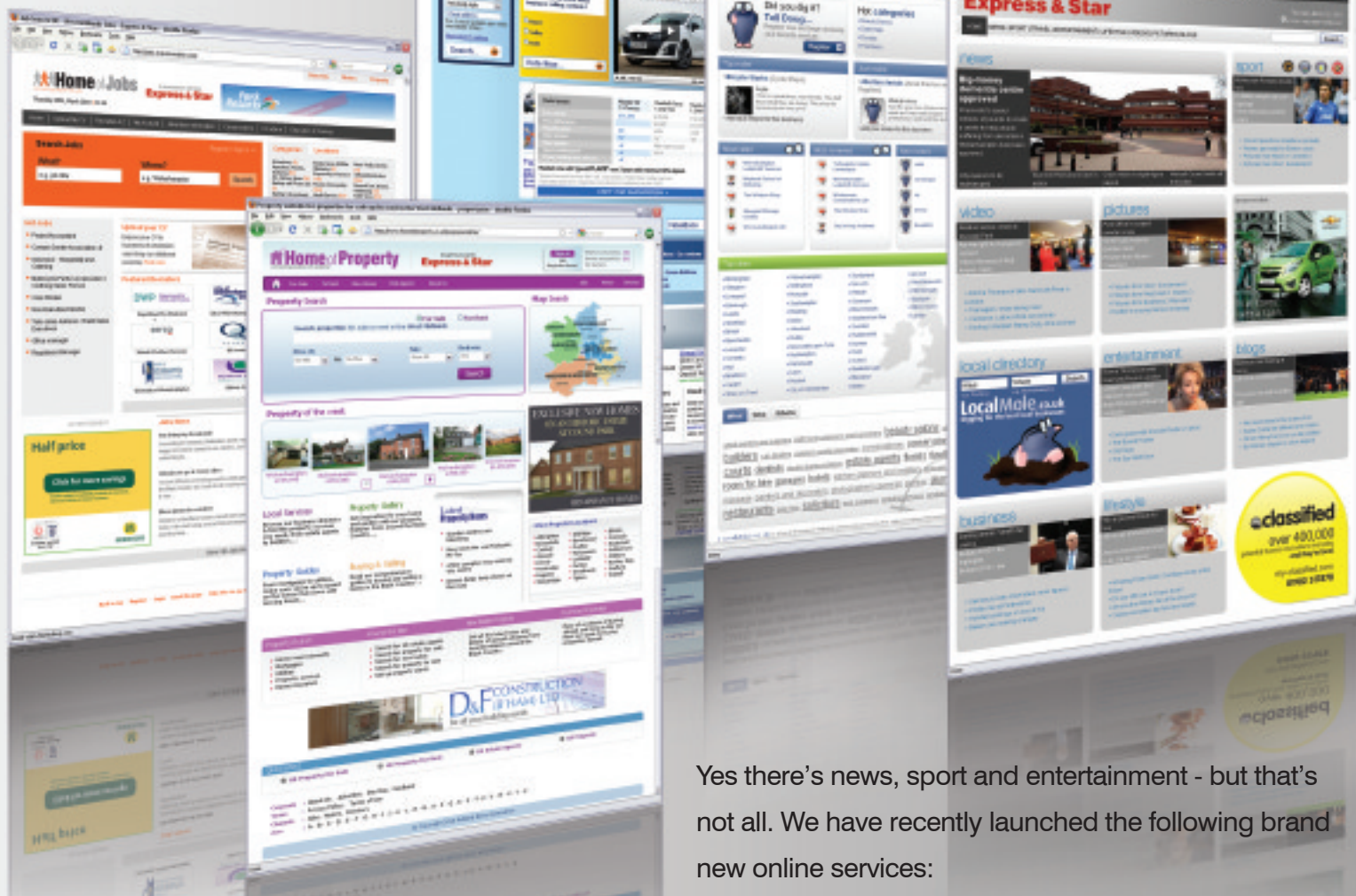
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**WEST** Midlands female, 4, attractive, slim, divorced, N/S, seeks slim, clean, attractive male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 343735**

**LISA** 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713**

**HELEN** 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399**

**SINGLE** mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 353085**

**ATTRACTIVE** nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTm attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 341479**

**SLIM** 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373**

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**KAREN** 47, 5ft 9ins, civil servant, attractive, down to earth, likes drink, dance, socialising, home life, seeks tall, professional, N/S for loving relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 323439**

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**BLACK** female, 38, seeks male, 30-50, adventurous, and fun loving, daring and caring. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 327355**

**IRENE** 72, N/S, active, 5ft 2ins, slim, blonde hair, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331301**

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**ATTRACTIVE** Tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211**

**EASYGOING** loving day dreamer, curvy, long brown hair, seeks similar kind, loving male to share fun, friendship and good conversations. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355249**

**BLONDE** female, 32, fun loving, likes telling her hair down and kicking her heels up, caring, considerate, seeks likeminded male, 25-40. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 323417**

**ATTRACTIVE** widow, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, likes meals out, holidays, WLTm gent, 70-80 for friendship and happiness. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 330461**

**PETITE** dark haired lady, 43, size 10, seeks considerate, N/S male, 25-50 for fun. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 338651**

**60YR** old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 334627**

**FRIENDLY** black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865**

**72YR** old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easy-going and N/S. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265**

**STUNNING** Caribbean black beauty, 33, size 10, 5ft 9ins, intelligent, caring, classy, seeks generous, solvent, romantic, male, 33-45 for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 326751**

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**SARAH** 20, attractive, brown hair/eyes, nice personality, like pets, seeks similar male, handsome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 317925**

**ATTRACTIVE** divorced 55yr old female, size 10, 5ft 6ins, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks tall, medium build, athletic guy to put the sparkle back into life. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 318203**

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**MARIA** 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 323919**

**CURVY** intelligent young widow, 58, blue eyes, short dark hair, lovely figure, seeks tall lively male to enjoy life's pleasures with. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 353429**

**GENUINE** easygoing lady, 80's, N/S, seeks likeminded gent, 65-75 for friendship and company. Must be genuine. West Midlands. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 325719**

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**ATTRACTIVE** slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 53, modern, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 338315**

**CURVY** black female, seeks genuine male, 28-40 to make me laugh and have fun. Must have GSOH. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 317387**

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**ATTRACTIVE** petite female, 34, single mum, likes nights in/out, cinema, seaside, days out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 317151**

**SYLVIE** 58, N/S, long blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, slim, OHAC, likes cycling, walks, keep fit, horse riding, holidays, theatre, films, meals out, GSOH, seeks male for friendship/LTR. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 321149**

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# sport

## Club has mixed results on the boards

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club have experienced mixed results in the first half of the season.

In the Wolverhampton League Stourbridge's promoted first team currently tops the table after just one defeat in six matches, writes **Julie Wilson**.

In Division Three the Stourbridge second team is mid-table.

The team is used to provide match practice for less-experienced players and they have held their own against established opposition.

But in Birmingham League Division Two the Stourbridge first team has one win and two defeats from three matches.

However, they look set to score

an upset against promotion favourites Kynoch despite fielding a weakened team and being out graded on every board.

On board two Dave Scriven's opponent blundered his queen under pressure, while Steve Jukes was unlucky to lose on board three. Of the remaining adjourned games two should be

definite wins on resumption and Stourbridge should be able to at least draw one of the other two.

In Division Three of the Birmingham League Stourbridge's second team also sit mid-table. The club's recent Christmas blitz tournament championship group was won by Jeremy Fallowfield with a perfect score.

## New pair at the helm as Hinks and Robins part

DUDLEY TOWN have appointed a new management team following the departure of Steve Hinks from The Dell hot seat by mutual consent.

Neil Perks and Nigel Kirkham recently left Dudley's West Midlands Regional League Premier Division rivals Bustleholme and will now take charge of the Robins, who stand in mid-table.

Dudley haven't played since November 20 – ironically a 3-2 defeat at Bustleholme – due to the bad weather.

But Perks and Kirkham will oversee their next game, which takes place at Stafford Town on January 15.

The pair had taken Tipton-based Bustleholme from basement boys to title contenders in less than 18 months. They leave with their old club standing at fifth place in the table.

Kirkham needs little introduction to The Dell faithful, having previously managed Dudley's youth team.

Together the new duo will be looking to catapulting the Robins to the Southern League.

Former boss Hinks was appointed in May 2010 but soon suffered a run of ill-fortune as a club that finished in the top five last term found itself struggling.

Long-term injuries to key summer signings Kevin Thompson and Darren Walters, as well as the departure of assistant manager

Richard Smith owing to work commitments, did not help his cause.

Hinks' tenure at the club brought memorable victories against local rivals Bloxwich United and Cradley Town.

But following a 6-1 FA Cup defeat at Bedworth United, Dudley managed only four wins in their following 18 games.

Dudley Town chairman Stephen Austin said he was sorry things had not worked out.

"Steve had a major rebuilding task at the start of the close season that he responded to with enthusiasm and commitment," Mr Austin added.

### Talents

"The acquisition of exciting young talents such as Tyrone Clarke and the nurture of the club's younger players, Alex Perry and George Reeves, are a testament of Steve's abilities.

"It was unfortunate that the increasing difficulty of Steve travelling a long distance to Dudley meant that a parting of the ways was sadly inevitable.

"On behalf of the committee of Dudley Town Football Club I would like to wish Steve all the very best for the future and thank him for his contribution to the club."

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton on Thursday, January 6, 2011.

# DOUBLE FOR BILLINGHAM SINKS YELTZ

Halesowen 0 Stourbridge 3

**BEN BILLINGHAM** scored twice as Stourbridge boosted their play-off hopes by beating beleaguered Halesowen in front of a bumper Bank Holiday crowd on Monday.

In what was just Halesowen's fourth game in 10 weeks more than 800 fans turned up at The Grove – but the home supporters were left hugely disappointed with the end result.

Stourbridge, on the back of a four-match losing streak, could even afford to miss a penalty and had little trouble seeing off Tony Thorpe's side, who are perched one point above the relegation places.

### Arrivals

Early arrivals to the ground were greeted with the news of two departures from The Grove, namely keeper Nick Bussey's switch to Kettering Town and Lee Osbourne's departure for Tipton Town.

Simon Flower came in for Bussey between the sticks and former Chasetown striker Rory Curtis was also handed his debut, while Stour replaced the injured Aaron Drake with Paul Lloyd.

The new keeper was called into action as early as the third minute when he had to palm a Leon Broadhurst header wide as the Glassboys began strongly.

Halesowen had a decent early chance of their own when Ruben Izquierdo forced a fine save from Stourbridge stopper Lewis Solly, but thereafter it was one-way traffic.

Ryan Mahon screwed a shot just past the post and Flower saved smartly from Ryan Rowe, before skipper Billingham struck a 20-yarder off the crossbar with the Yeltz struggling to cope.

The visitors were then given a golden chance to take the lead on 33 minutes when Mark Smith hauled down Rowe in the box.

But Billingham rolled a weak penalty wide of Flower's left-hand post.

However just three minutes later the striker redeemed himself when the Glassboys were awarded



Ben Billingham notches both his and Stourbridge's second goal in the derby victory over Halesowen

another spot kick by referee Steven Plane.

Chris Godwin clumsily fouled Sam Rock and this time Billingham made no mistake from 12 yards, drilling his penalty down the middle to beat Flower.

### Empty

Before half-time Stourbridge deservedly doubled their lead and it was Billingham who struck again, taking Linden Dovey's pass and rounding Flower before tapping the ball into the empty Yeltz net.

A Halesowen comeback failed to materialise after the break and the

visitors continued to look the more likely goalscorers, with Rock and Dovey going close as the barrage continued.

The lively Izquierdo went on a marauding run just past the hour and shot wide, but it was a rare moment of promise for the home side.

It was no surprise when Stourbridge sealed the victory with 15 minutes to go through substitute David Plinston who side-footed a left-wing Billingham cross past Flower.

The three points were in the bag but Billingham was desperate to notch a hat-trick and twice went

close to doing so, lashing a long-range effort just wide of the target before hammering a volley against the bar.

Izquierdo saw a late shot blocked – but Halesowen failed to muster a consolation in what was yet another demoralising defeat in their fight against the drop.

### Home

Thorpe's team face another home game this Saturday (January 8) when Winsor & Eton are the visitors to The Grove, while on the same day promotion-chasing Stourbridge visit Chesham United.

## Penalty save holds key to victory for Hawks

Boys League

Glassboys 0

Halas Hawks West 3

HALAS Hawks under-nines West kept their promotion push going by winning a close encounter.

A first-half strike from Harry Willams gave them a lead which was retained at half-time courtesy of a fine penalty save by Matthew Smith.

Halas had to soak up pressure in the second half but two goals from Joshua Wyman and a man of the match display from Bradley Willmott saw them win 3-0.

**Halas Hawks East 3 Stourbridge 1**  
The under-nines East took a fourth successive win after weathering some early pressure.

Stourbridge hit the bar but Halas took the lead from an own goal after a Charlie Greening corner before Stourbridge came back to equalise.

Halas regained the advantage through a long-range Louie Jones goal and sealed the game when Joshua Yorke tapped in at the far post from another Greening corner.

Jones and Tom Baker were joint man of the match.

Halas East 6

Netherton East 1

The under-10s East remain top of the table after a big win.

Jordan Berry scored early on and James Rigby slotted home the second before Berry made it 3-0 at half-time.

Halas continued their dominance in the second half when Joshua Parsons scored with a sharp right-foot shot into the bottom corner.

Netherton pulled one back before Matthew Cole scored his first goal for the club and Jordan Ward cut in from the right to wrap up the scoring.

**Halas Hawks 7 Newbridge 1**  
The under-11s had a comfortable win with goals from Jonty Round (2), Mohamed Mohamed (2), Joe Wythes, Matt Evans and Mohamed Yafai.

**Trysull Tigers East 3 Halas Hawks West 4**

The under-12s West recorded their first win of the season after trailing 3-1.

They were one down at the turn but equalised only for Trysull to score twice.

Halas then took the points with a Dylan Kealing hat-trick and a goal from Ellis Meredith. Man of the match was Jamie Godfrey.

Phoenix Youth 5

Halas Hawks 1

Despite having the best of the play in the first half, the Halas under-13s found themselves two down at half-time.

Phoenix then extended their lead to 4-0 and although Michael Eaton scored a fine goal to raise the Halas hopes, Phoenix went on to score once more.

Halas man of the match went to Michael Eaton.

Warley Borough 3

Halas Hawks 4

The under-14s East were perhaps still dreaming of Christmas pudding when they found themselves 3-0 down to Warley Borough.

But after some stern words at half-time they got a grip of the game.

Goals from Dan Willelts, Josh March, Nathan Collins and an outstanding set goal from Louis Ezewe secured the win.

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